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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF NORTHERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

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SOVIET ARMY MOVES IN THE DIRECTION OF FINLAND AND NORWAY

You may be asked what information this Government has concerning published reports of Soviet Army moves in the direction of Finland and Norway as a Soviet reaction to development of the North Atlantic Pact. You may wish to say that there have been numerous reports in the press to the effect that the Soviet was moving various numbers of troops into various of the areas which border upon Finland and Norway. You might wish to state that you are unable either to confirm or explode these reports, but that you have not seen evidence to justify the conclusion that Russia is preparing military movements into Finland or Norway.

Background for the Secretary.

A recent report from Helsinki states that there is no confirmation of increased Soviet activities on the Finnish border and in the Porkkala area and that the Finns are unperturbed and consider the reports merely speculative.

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